

Appl. No. 10/600,194
Amdt. Dated: February 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 05, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending while claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, and 21 stand rejected. Applicants cordially thank the Examiner for indication of the allowable subject matter with respect to claims 10-12, 17, 19, and 20, but for their dependence on a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 6, 13, 18, and 21 have been amended while claims 22-25 are new, leaving claims 1-25 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 18, and 21, in particular, can be found at least with respect to the full paragraphs of page 12, and Figure 3, as well as the last paragraph on page 14, and Figures 6 and 7 of the application as originally filed.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102

Claims 1-9,13-16,18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,678). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner alleges that Moon discloses a backlight assembly comprising: a lamp for generating light (31); a fixing member having a base substrate (61b), a fixing clip protruded from an upper surface of the base substrate so as to fix the lamp and a first fixing portion formed by partially cutting-away the base substrate (66), and a receiving receptacle for providing a receiving space in which the fixing member is received and having a first fixing (62) protrusion inserted into the first fixing, portion, which is protruded from a bottom surface of the receiving space, so as to fix the fixing member to the receiving space. Further, the Examiner alleges that Moon discloses that the fixing member is slid on the bottom surface of the receiving receptacle in a first direction to be coupled with the receiving receptacle after the fixing member is received into the receiving space. (Figs. 6a, 6b).

It is respectfully submitted that Moon more accurately discloses a backlight device including a plurality of fluorescent lamps 31 arranged in parallel with each other, first and second lamp fixing assemblies 41a and 41b arranged facing each other, a plurality of holders 42, conductive layers 43a and 43b arranged contacting the fluorescent

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lamps 31, and a reflective plate 44 arranged in a region between the first and second lamp fixing assemblies 41a and 41b, and below the fluorescent lamps 31. Col. 4, lines 9-16. Moon discloses that the holders 42 may have a shape matched with a remaining space of the grooves 46 after ends of the fluorescent lamp 31 are placed inside the grooves 46. Col. 4, lines 24-27. Moon is absent any teaching or suggestion of reflective plate 44 having a protrusion inserted into the first fixing portion, which is protruded from a bottom surface of the base substrate, so as to fix the fixing member to the receiving space, as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claim 21.

Moon discloses that the first and second lamp fixing assemblies 41a and 41b and the lamp holders 42 may be non-conductive, and may be made of an elastic material or rigid material, such as rubber, acrylic, poly-carbonate (PC) or plastic. In addition, the first and second lamp fixing assemblies 41a and 41b may be an integral type in which an upper portion is not separated from a lower portion. Col. 4, lines 33-39, see also Col. 5, lines 55-59. Thus, Moon teaches away from an electrically conductive fixing member as claimed in independent claims 1, 18, 21, and 22.

Lastly, with respect to Figures 4 and 6 upon which the Examiner relies, Moon does not disclose a "resilient" clip as claimed in claims 1, 18, 21, and 22 and certainly not a "unitary" clip as in claim 22. M-W.com defines a clip as "1 : any of various devices that grip, clasp, or hook". (Emphasis added.) In contrast, Moon discloses a lamp holder 42, 62 (FIGs. 4, 6) configured to "affix" the lamp within a complimentary sized groove 46, 66. Col. 4, lines 25-27. Moon discloses "the conductive layer (43b,) 63b may extend to contact one surface of each of the grooves (46,) 66 in which the fluorescent lamps are to be arranged." Col. 5, lines 7-8, 16-18, and 36-38. Thus, Moon teaches away from a "resilient clip" since the clip is disposed along one surface defining the groove.

Moon does not teach or suggest, and in fact teaches away from, an electrically conductive fixing member having a base substrate, a resilient fixing clip protruded from an upper surface of the base substrate so as to fix the lamp, and a first fixing portion formed by partially cutting-away the base substrate; and a receiving receptacle having a receiving space in which the fixing member is received and having a first fixing protrusion inserted into the first fixing portion, which is protruded from a bottom surface

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of the base substrate, so as to fix the fixing member to the receiving space, as in claim 1, and similarly claimed in claims 18, 21, and 22.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 18, 21, and 22, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2-17, 19, 20, and 23-25, define over Moon.

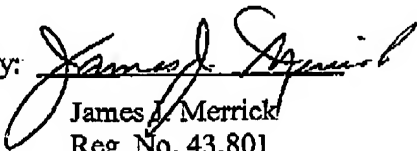
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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